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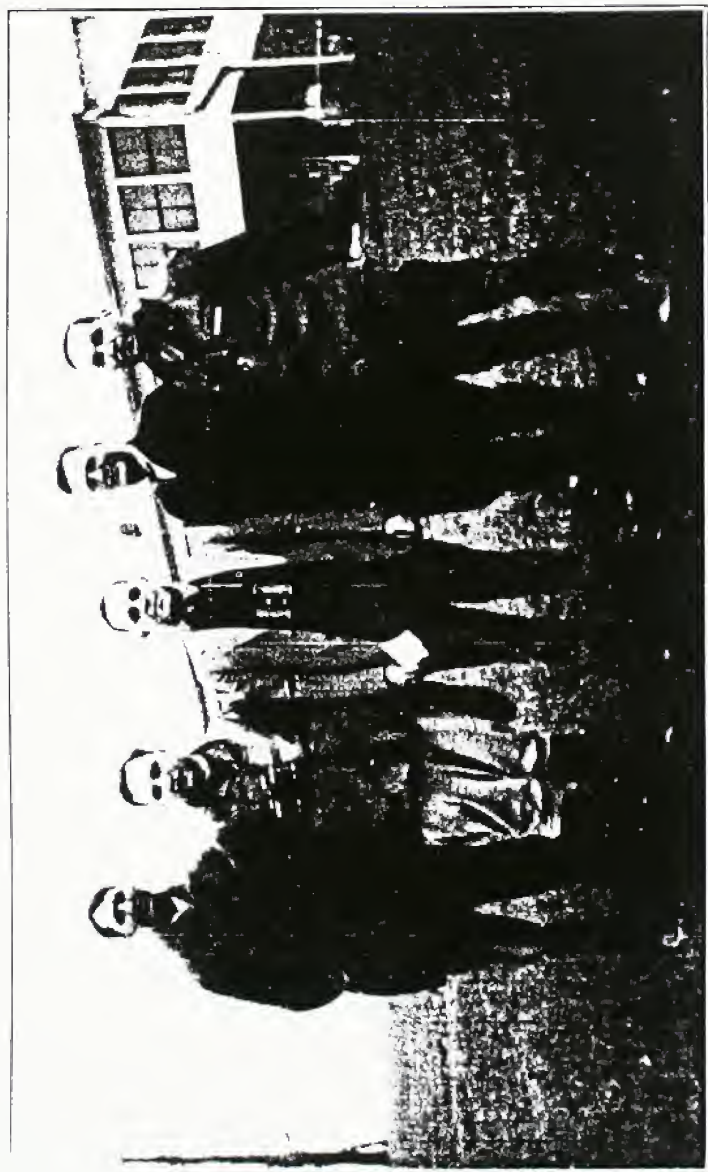
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Photographed by Fred J. Pierce

OUR PRESIDENTS—FAIRFIELD, IOWA, MAY 6, 1933

It is seldom that we have them all together at one time. This opportunity for a photograph occurred just after they had come in from the field trip at Fairfield. Right to left: Walter M. Rose (President 1923-1926), Arthur J. Pallas (1927-1928), Walter W. Bennett (1929-1930), Dr. F. L. R. Roberts (1931-1932), and Dr. George O. Hendrickson (1933-34).

THE BIRDS: A PART OF OUR HOME*

By GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON
President, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

One bright Sunday morning in spring I stepped out-of-doors after breakfast for a breath of the fresh air. My attention was drawn to a trio of Robins in a plum tree at the back of the yard. It was a "triangle"—two males and one female. One male appeared to have some food in his bill, and from his side of the tree he called in low, clucking tones an invitation to the female. At the opposite side of the tree, male number two sang a low and very sweet song which surely the female, perched between the two rivals, could not help hearing. Shortly, the songster flew, with a stirring call note, to the ridge of the barn a few yards away. There he opened up with all the power, the joy, and the vigor that a male Robin can turn loose in song, and the female heard the song. She soon flew to alight on the barn.

Male number one was now put out. He swallowed the food and proceeded to give the call one hears so often when a cat comes near a nest. But the female seemed to see no harm in being near male number two. So it occurred to male number one to fly to the top of nearby box elder tree and offer up his song. Ere long the female left the barn and perched on a fence near the box elder tree. Now it was male number two's turn to try some tricks.

At this point the children and I were reminded of "time to go to Sunday-school," and we went. At the noon meal I told the family about the Robins' affairs. In time, matters must have been settled properly because some days later the children joyfully reported a nest in the plum tree. And, shortly, they found a nest in a blue-spruce tree at the front of the yard . . .

Thus you see these affairs, the songs, the habits, the nests, the eggs and the babies of the two pairs of Robins had become a part of our daily life in observations and in conversation. The Robins were a part of our home—a part of our lives. We enjoyed them together. Of all the things that made up our home, the Robins were an essential source of pleasure—low-priced, health-building and instructive in ways that are clearly evident to any adult man or woman.

By the time a neighbor's cherries were ripe the Robins had more than paid for a little of the fruit by eating many cutworms that might have done much damage in our gardens. But the neighbor felt it to be his duty to shoot at them occasionally. I think he killed very few Robins, if any. Because some of the shot whistled too close to the ears of other neighbors at work in their gardens, the police were requested to inform the gunner of the ordinance forbidding the shooting of firearms in our city. And the Robins reared a second brood.

To me it seems that many birds return our kindness. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak frequently visits my garden. I believe that he helps in keeping my potatoes free from potato beetles. Occasionally he shells out a few ripe peas. But the extra potatoes out-value the few peas that the grosbeak takes. Several species of small sparrows are in our yard from time to time. We observe them eating many weed seeds. Although we have to continue to fight weeds, I am grateful to any creature that eats seeds of undesirable plants. But, I shall not expect unreasonable things from my bird friends. It is unfair to expect birds to control cockleburrs, quack grass and Canada thistles. When an English Sparrow becomes so familiar that he insists upon roosting in the garage, I am vexed for a while. I have a broom handy,

*Excerpts from a speech before the School for Game Wardens, at Des Moines, December 5, 1932.

and some morning that sparrow will not be able to fly by me on his way out.

Throughout the summer we hear the Bob-white calling in the fields to the south and the west of our home. The food habits of these active little fellows are so well-known that we need not say more than to state that the Bob-white must be preserved for the best interests of agriculture in our state. We agree completely on that point. When in the autumn the Bob-whites gather together and come up around our barn for shelter and food, we begin to love them still more as parts of our home. After watching the little flock of Bob-whites a while this morning under the bridal-wreath just beneath the large east window of our house, it would be hard for the children and me to consent to part with any one of that little flock.



Courtesy of Iowa State College

FEMALE BOBWHITE ON NEST

Photographed by Walter M. Rosene, near Ogden, Iowa.

Lately, the nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers have come back to climb down and up the apple trees and fill up on codling moth larvae. The children, mother and I watch them and enjoy their behavior as we see these feathered helpers from the playroom windows. To such happy gatherings I come back daily from my work. Such happenings are parts of our home The fireman protects our belongings against disastrous fires, and the policeman frightens the thief away. To the game warden we look for aid in the protection of the birds, a part of our homes

Iowa State College,
Ames, Iowa.

OUR ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

By KATE E. LA MAR

Sec'y-Treasurer, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

The eleventh annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union opened in the lecture room of the Public Library, Fairfield, Iowa, May 5, 1933, at 9:00 A. M. Mrs. A. E. Labagh, president of the Fairfield Bird Club, gave the address of welcome. A response in behalf of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was made by Walter M. Rosene.

Mrs. C. C. Clark of Burlington read a paper entitled "Field Notes of a Bird Lover," which consisted largely of excerpts from the journal of W. G. Ross, a Fairfield bird student who kept very careful notes from 1898 to 1909. The paper was described as a "literary gem" by those who are familiar with the writings of this early bird lover.

A paper, "Birds of South-eastern Iowa," by Prof. H. E. Jaques of Mount Pleasant, described the bird trips that he conducts for his students and included a list of birds seen during the previous month.

A talk on "Organized Crow Shoots" was presented by Dr. Mary Roberts. Dr. Roberts brought out two points: First, Crows are not always bad; second, unregulated Crow shooting is very detrimental. She spoke quite fully on the food habits of the Crow and its economic status in the Middle West, and outlined control measures. A discussion followed in which Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, Dr. P. L. Errington, and Mr. Pierce brought out points not touched by the author.

"Subspecies and Their Place in the List of Iowa Birds," by Philip A. DuMont, was the next paper on the program, and was of great interest to all who heard it. He discussed this important problem thoroughly, and illustrated his talk with subspecific bird skins from the University of Iowa Museum. Iowa has many migratory subspecies which cannot be easily distinguished in the field, and Mr. DuMont advised extreme caution in listing them as such. Ornithologists wish to know what subspecies are found in Iowa. Well regulated collecting of specimens to determine the range of subspecies was recommended by the speaker.

Just before the noon adjournment President Roberts appointed the following committees: Crow shoots, Walter Bennett, Dr. Errington, P. A. DuMont, Mrs. A. J. Palas, and Dr. Mary Roberts; Resolutions, Dr. Hendrickson, Mrs. C. J. Fulton, and Walter Rosene; Nominating, A. J. Palas, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, and J. Wilbur Dole. Noon luncheon was held in the Christian church.



BOBWHITE CHICKS

which Walter M. Rosene photographed on his hat. They were just hatched and fairly tame. The photo is used by courtesy of Iowa State College.

The Friday afternoon session opened in Barhydt Chapel of Parsons College. The first feature of the program was a talk by Dr. Paul L. Errington of Iowa State College on "Wintering of Quail in Iowa." He stated that the mortality of Quail in Iowa during winter is due largely to lack of food and suitable cover, and went on to describe his work for the state in the matter of quail studies. The destruction of quail by foxes and other natural enemies was discussed by Dr. Errington. The information which he gave was of great interest to us, since it illustrated the progress that is being made in the state's work with game birds.

"Wild Flowers of Iowa," a talk by Wier R. Mills of Pierson, was particularly educational, since it was illustrated by beautiful lantern slides. It almost made some of the ornithologists decide to become botanists. The pictures included the spring flowers and prairie flowers, and showed over 50 species. Mr. Mills' entertaining lecture which accompanied the pictures was full of information concerning the different wild flower habitats.

The next speaker was Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, who talked on "Birds of a City Lot," from observations made at her home in Des Moines. She said that her many birds were present because of her large berry thickets, brush tangles, bird pool, and trees which attracted them.

John B. Slate of Sigourney introduced "A Bird We All Should Know," which 'bird' proved to be E. D. Nauman, the well known author and ornithologist of the same city. All of our members have known Mr. Nauman through his bird articles, and there were many more who were glad to make his personal acquaintance at the meeting. Mr. Slate read Mr. Nauman's "Birds of Early Iowa," published in 'The Palimpsest' in 1924 and republished in 'Iowa Bird Life' in 1931. The literary style was delightful. Anyone will be well repaid for the reading of this article, which graphically describes the Passenger Pigeons, Wild Turkeys, Prairie Chickens, Swallow-tailed Kites, and other birds known to the pioneers of Iowa. One wonders which birds of today will become the extinct species of tomorrow.

Dr. George O. Hendrickson of Iowa State College talked on "Quail Farming" (illustrated by slides). His work has been carried on largely in the southern part of the state, and he has organized many quail clubs among boys of from 10 to 15 years of age. He teaches conservation of the soil in connection with providing cover for quail and other game birds.

Two papers, "Amateur Observations," by Judge O. S. Thomas of Rock Rapids, and "Recent Field Experiences with Birds" (moving pictures), by W. F. Kubichek, were read by title in the absence of the authors.

The afternoon program was followed by the business meeting. Reports by the various committees and officers were heard. The "Resolutions" included the following important sections:

"Resolved, that we proffer our thankful appreciation of the reception and entertainment by the Fairfield Bird Club as representatives of the Fairfield community; . . . that we express our thanks to President and Mrs. Clarence W. Green of Parsons College for the courtesies and friendly reception of our Union; . . . that we extend our thanks to the Rotary Club of Fairfield for its bountiful banquet and the very pleasant evening reception given us." " . . . Be it resolved that, although we recognize the right of persons to protect their property when in the act of being damaged or destroyed, the Iowa Ornithologists' Union goes on record as opposing organized and wholesale killing of Crows or other birds, except that any wholesale control measures should be conducted according to the apparent needs of local situations, and only when properly supervised by qualified officials."

"Resolved, that we express our appreciation and commendation of the

organization of Quail Protective Clubs and nature clubs in Iowa made possible by the Iowa Fish and Game Commission, Iowa State College, and Mr. Darling of Des Moines." (Lack of space prevents the printing of the resolutions in their entirety, but they are preserved in the Secretary's records.)

As an economy measure and to simplify the keeping of records, it was decided to consolidate the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The list of new officers as elected is given on our title page of this issue. Editor Pierce gave a short talk on the publishing of our magazine and the problems connected with it. Size of issues, time of publication, postal rates, advertising, and manuscript material were some of the points mentioned. Various comments and suggestions by the members followed his talk. After numerous business matters were brought up for discussion and taken care of, the meeting adjourned for the afternoon.

At 4:30 P. M. we were entertained at the home of President and Mrs. Green of Parsons College. Tea was served and a short musical program was enjoyed.

The evening banquet was held at the Presbyterian church at seven o'clock. Here we were guests of the Fairfield Rotary Club, and it was easily the biggest and gayest event of the entire meeting. About 200 people were present. The unique menu and postprandial program were most pleasing. An address of welcome was made by Rotarian A. G. Jordan. Musical numbers of various kinds were provided by Fairfield talent, and a burlesque scientific lecture by William Stever of Fairfield provoked much hearty laughter. It was entitled "Fifty-seven New Varieties of Birds Discovered on My Recent Expedition to the Island of Krum." The birds were new! One of the most astounding species was the "auger billed flicklefinch" which dug fence-post holes in the earth and pulled forth worms as large as auto inner tubes! A series of lantern slides accompanied the "lecture." The speaker of the evening was Walter W. Bennett, who presented slides and moving pictures of "Birds in Their Homes." His lecture was very enjoyable, as were the pictures which accompanied it. His series of moving pictures of the nesting of the Long-billed Curlew in Nebraska was a feature worth going far to see.

The field trip occupied all of Saturday morning, May 6. The various groups reassembled at noon at "The Walton," a clubhouse near Fairfield, where a fine luncheon was served by the local club. After some songs around the campfire and the complete bird list was compiled, the meeting adjourned. The Fairfield event will go down in our history as one of our best and most successful meetings.

Attendance Register.—AMES, Dr. P. L. Errington, Dr. and Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson; ARNOLDS PARK, Walter W. Bennett; ATLANTIC, Mrs. Billy Williams; BURLINGTON, Mrs. C. C. Clark, Mrs. Kitty Tiedemann; CEDAR RAPIDS, C. Esther Copp, Lavina Dragoo, Ada Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek, Mrs. Jennie N. Pratt, Lillian Serbousek, Romaine Wallace, Myra Willis; DES MOINES, Kate E. LaMar, Olivia McCabe, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Palas, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg; FAIRFIELD, Mrs. John Auckland, Mrs. W. H. Bangs, Roger Barnes, Mrs. Geo. Bonifield, Chas. Carter, Mrs. J. F. Clarke, Grace Cline, Mrs. I. N. Crow, Mrs. E. A. Davies, J. Wilbur Dole, Mrs. Frank Fourt, C. J. Fulton, Chas. Gilly, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Heer, Mrs. R. D. Hunt, Gail Hunt, Mrs. Walter Hunt, Mrs. Fred Hunt, Mrs. Fred Johnson, Paul S. Junkin, Mrs. A. E. Labagh, R. W. Lamson, Roberta Louden, Hazel Manatrey, Fred D. Mason, Malcom McDonald, Mrs. Don McGiffen, Mrs. C. T. McKenzie, Mrs. Carl Melander, Mrs. W. H. Pedrick, W. R. Phipps, E. R. Smith, Lenora Thomas, Alice and Elizabeth Turney, C. D. Vernon, Carl Welty; IOWA CITY, Philip A. DuMont,

Dr. and Mrs. F. L. R. Roberts; MOUNT PLEASANT, H. E. Jaques, John Moore, Edgar Pierson; OGDEN, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Rosene; PIERSON, W. R. Mills, Paul Osborn; SIGOURNEY, E. D. Nauman, John B. Slate; TIPTON, Mrs. M. E. Fleagle; WINTHROP, Fred J. Pierce; WEST BROOKFIELD, MASS., Carlton D. Richardson. (This register does not include all those who attended the Rotary Club banquet, at which there were nearly 200 people, mostly of Fairfield.)

Birds Seen on the Field Trip.—(Several groups visited different areas near Fairfield, including the golf club grounds, timber land, waterworks ponds, etc.; 6 A. M. to 12 M.) Pied-billed Grebe, Forster's and Black Terns, Double-crested Cormorant, American and Red-breasted Mergansers, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks, Great Blue and Green Herons, Coot, Wilson's Phalarope, Wilson's Snipe, Least, Semipalmated, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Western Willet, Upland Plover, Killdeer, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Marsh, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broadwinged and Sparrow Hawks, Barred, Screech and Great Horned Owls, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy, Red-headed and Red bellied Woodpeckers, Flicker, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Kingbird, Crested and Least Flycatchers, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, Bobolink, Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Goldfinch, English, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, White-crowned, White-throated, Tree, Chipping, Field, Song, Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows, Slate-colored Junco, Towhee, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Martin, Cliff, Barn, Tree, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Warbling, Yellow-throated and Bell's Vireos, Black and White, Blue-winged, Nashville, Tennessee, Yellow, Myrtle, Black-poll, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green and Palm Warblers, Ovenbird, Grinnell's Water-thrush, Maryland Yellow-throat, Redstart, Pipit, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Carolina, House, and Prairie Marsh Wrens, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadee, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood, Wilson's and Olive-backed Thrushes, Robin, Bluebird. Total, 120 species.

GENERAL NOTES

Breeding Birds in Iowa.—An attempt has been made by the writer to determine which species of birds may be classed as breeding species in Iowa. On the basis of all authentic nesting records either recorded or reported during the past 20 years the Iowa list of breeding birds totals 135. Certain others, noted occasionally as summer residents, may yet be found as breeders. A special effort should be made to determine whether the following species may be added to this list. Those marked by an (X) are represented by another subspecific form, which, in each case, is a common breeder. Specimens of all so marked are needed for accurate determination. Eared Grebe, Hooded Merganser, Ferruginous Rough-leg, Eastern Pigeon Hawk, Yellow Rail, Piping Plover, Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Aiken's Screech Owl (X), Sennett's Nighthawk (X), Long-tailed Chickadee (X), Brown Creeper, Common Rock Wren, Willow Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Sycamore Warbler, Northern Prairie Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Nevada Cowbird (X), Lark Bunting, Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow (X), Leconte's Sparrow, Western Henslow's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Eastern Song Sparrow (X).

Of the 135 breeding birds, it can be said that this list includes only

common species which all recognize as breeders, with perhaps not over a dozen somewhat rare or local breeders included. These are: Common Canada Goose, Shoveller, Ruddy Duck, Swainson's Hawk, Wilson's Snipe, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Eastern Red-winged Blackbird (the Giant Red-wing is the common form), Northern Pine Siskin, Eastern Savannah Sparrow, and Clay-colored Sparrow.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

A Wounded Whooping Crane.—Much is remembered, more has been forgotten, yet anon the vesper bells of memory toll into remembrance voices and incidents of boyhood days spent upon the prairies which have long since disappeared. Especially do the recollections of various cries and calls of the numerous wild birds linger down thru the flight of vanished years.

About the middle of April, 1873, while brother and I were at work sawing and piling wood on the paternal homestead, three neighbor boys called and questioned in a chorus, "Did you fellows see that great white bird walking thru your pasture to the north, up the valley?" Brother and I answered, "No, we haven't seen any bird." "Well, there is the biggest bird of some kind that we have ever seen, stalking slowly toward the north, following the creek in the pasture." Then the five of us started afoot across the pasture toward where they said they had seen the bird traveling northward. It seemed queer to brother and me that a bird which had wings should be walking rather than flying. When queried by us as to what sort of bird they surmised it might be, one said he believed it was some kind of heron or crane, for it appeared to have a long bill and its legs were stilt-like and very black. We walked westward down the pasture, and upon reaching the valley, were able to see the great white creature slowly plodding along northward close to the banks of the stream. The land was all closely-cropped pasture, and it was easy to secure a full view of the bird. Since first seen by the boys, it had already somehow advanced over or under a smooth-wire fence, crossed a highway, gotten thru a second fence, and was still traveling northward in a neighbor's pasture. All five of us followed fast. The biped was going along with slow strides, occasionally raising its wings as tho to fly, which lifting maneuver revealed to us jet-black, shining shaft feathers. Frequently, as it walked with far-reaching footsteps, it turned its head sideways and looked back at us, then it moved slowly on. At times it seemed to have a jaunty air and confident poise. After some minutes when we were getting closer, it stopped and again turned its head and haughtily looked back at us long and deliberately. Stopping short, it pointed its long black bill straight upward and pealed a thunderous trumpet call that made us shudder. Then it turned its head to the northward and walked on but in a moment slowly raised its wings as if it were a painful effort to lift them. A shock of pity and compassion smote us. Our chorused exclamations were: "The bird is wounded. It has been shot. It is weak. It can't fly."

A short distance ahead stood another barrier-fence. The tall bird hesitated a moment. It made another attempt to fly. Just as it was about to ascend, it uttered a wild, despairing wail, which weird and woeful bird-appeal still haunts with mystic force. Then we agreed the bird was a white Whooping Crane which was crippled. The wound was undoubtedly in its body and not in its wings. In its second attempt to fly it managed to clear the fence, then slowly floated along a few feet above the ground, its long, loose, fluffy white feathers softly waving in the spring-time breeze as its wings tediously beat the air; but finally it appeared to gather strength and rose higher and higher, then flying in a straight line, it disappeared from our view. We ceased the chase.

While retracing our steps homeward, we talked about the tall, snowy bird unable to fly but guided by instinct and walking in the direction its comrades had flown. Perhaps it was one from a flock of several hundred cranes, and undoubtedly had been injured by a shot from the gun of some thoughtless hunter when with its kindred it was soaring in spirals or gliding with poised wings high over the head of the gunman.

The white Whooping Cranes were never very numerous even in early days and are now almost extinct. Their habitat was along the Mississippi River Valley. When migrating they usually alighted on some short-grass hilltop where they could observe the approach of enemies and there they would stalk about in a stately manner. When satisfied with seed and insect food furnished by the prairies, they would fly to streams and lakes for fish and frogs. Their nests were usually built in marshes on tussocks piled high with reeds and rushes. Like the eagles, the flight of the cranes, of which in early days there were several kinds, was usually above the storm planes, and their circling and soaring movements in the sky made a wondrous avian spectacle. There was an intense sublimity in their panoramic maneuvers which nobly impressed the beholder.—ELLIS E. WILSON, Waterloo, Iowa.

The Burrowing Owl and Other Birds in Story County, Iowa.—A pair of Burrowing Owls made their home in some abandoned holes in our cow pasture during the summer of 1923 and reared a family of young. This is my only record of these interesting birds for Story County. I observed them in Rock County, Minnesota, in 1930.

In 1918 a pair of Marsh Hawks nested in a clover meadow on our farm. When discovered, the nest contained four downy young which I photographed.

The only winter date I have for the Robin is January 18, 1926. I have many winter dates for Meadowlark, Flicker, and Mourning Dove. A Meadowlark was seen in our farm yard on December 12, 1932. It was 15 degrees below zero that morning. I saw a flock of 30 Prairie Chickens on November 17 and again on December 22, 1932.—HENRY BIRKELAND, Nevada, Iowa.

The Eastern Goldfinch Named Iowa Bird—The Eastern Goldfinch, commonly known as the Wild Canary, has become the official bird of Iowa. Voting on a concurrent resolution which passed the House, the Iowa Senate unanimously adopted a resolution designating it as the state bird. As such it takes rank with the wild rose, the state flower, and the ear of corn emblematic of the Hawkeye State. Selection of the Eastern Goldfinch was made at the request of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.—Newspaper clipping, March, 1933.

(The resolution was introduced by Hon. J. Wilbur Dole of Fairfield, one of our members.)

The Lesser and Greater Snow Geese.—From time to time variously numbered flocks of Snow Geese migrate through Iowa and are watched with great interest by observers. Usually they are mixed in flocks with the Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens* Linn.) or of White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons albifrons* Scop.), but occasionally are separate flocks of one kind.

At such times bird students have frequently been in doubt as to the species, and it may be well to call attention to the status of the two kinds of snow geese. In substance the 1931 A. O. U. Check-list gives the range of the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea* Pall.) as breeding in northern Canada and wintering over the western United States east to the Mississippi Valley, and from British Columbia and southern Illinois south to the Gulf. This clearly would place it as coming through Iowa during migration.

The Greater Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea atlantica* Kenn.) is given by

the same authority as much farther east, breeding in Greenland, Baffin and Ellesmere islands, wintering along the Atlantic coast of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, and migrating along the coast. This would place this species far from the migration range of the other Snow Goose. Clearly, this bird would not come to Iowa according to the A. O. U., so it would be well for anyone reporting a Greater Snow Goose in Iowa to have the bird in hand to establish the record as an accidental.

Another interesting fact is that the Lesser may migrate in many groups while the Greater goes practically in one large flock. In April, 1932, the writer had the pleasure of seeing this splendid group of beautiful birds along the St. Lawrence River. They were all of one species, feeding along the shore.—WALTER W. BENNETT, Arnolds Park, Iowa.

Sets of 'The Iowa Ornithologist.'—The following list is the result of an effort by the Editor to locate all existing sets of this magazine. It is believed that the list is quite complete. Appeals for information regarding the location of sets were printed in 'The Auk,' 'Wilson Bulletin,' and 'The Oologist,' through the courtesy of the respective editors, and there was an earlier notice in 'Iowa Bird Life.' In addition, a dozen double postal cards (with return card attached) were sent to persons thought to possess sets. Of these, six were heard from. Some sets were heard of through personal correspondence, and Philip A. DuMont located several sets.

There are but 23 sets of 'The Iowa Ornithologist' extant, according to present information, and not all of these are complete. Six of these sets are in Iowa, but only two are in public institutions. It is unfortunate that the Iowa Ornithological Association made no provision for depositing its magazine in a number of Iowa libraries, so that it would always be available to the many bird students who would not otherwise have access to it. Thus a publication which for at least a part of its existence was printed in an edition of 500 copies, has become very rare. Complete sets bring \$10 and upward and are seldom offered for sale, while single copies regularly sell for \$1 each. The magazine was published quarterly, beginning in October, 1894; it suspended with Vol. 4, No. 3, 1898, after 15 numbers had been issued. The few incomplete sets are indicated in the below list. Owners of these incomplete sets will be glad to learn where the missing copies can be obtained.

CALIFORNIA. (1) Dr. W. I. Mitchell, Berkeley; (2) Dr. Guy C. Rich, Hollywood.

ILLINOIS. (3) R. M. Barnes, Lacon.

IOWA. (4) Iowa State College, Ames; *(5) State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City (lacks Vol. II, No. 4; Vol. IV, No. 2); *(6) Carl Fritz Henning, Boone (lacks Vol. IV, No. 3); (7) Dr. Chas. R. Keyes, Mt. Vernon; *(8) Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop (lacks Vol. IV, No. 3); (9) Dr. T. C. Stephens, Sioux City.

LOUISIANA. *(10) George Seth Guion, New Orleans (lacks Vol. III, No. 1; Vol. IV, Nos. 1-2-3).

MASSACHUSETTS. *(11) Boston Society of Natural History, Boston (lacks Vol. III, Nos. 3-4; Vol. IV, No. 3; (12) Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge.

New York. *(13) American Museum of Natural History, N. Y. C. (lacks Vol. II, No. 4; (14) Columbia University, N. Y. C.

PENNSYLVANIA. (15) Dr. Witmer Stone, Philadelphia.

TENNESSEE. (16) Albert F. Ganier, Nashville.

WASHINGTON, D. C. (17) Library of Congress; (18) U. S. Dept. of Agriculture; (19) United States National Museum; (20) Dr. Paul Bartsch; (21) Dr. H. C. Oberholser.

CANADA. (22) McGill University Library, Montreal; (23) Dr. R. M. Anderson, Ottawa.—F. J. P.

Ducks in Clay County, Iowa.—The thousands of ducks that have wintered in the north part of Clay County in Round Lake, where they have kept a spot of ice open during the most severe weather by their swimming and beating of their wings, are being joined almost daily by other northbound ducks. When they leave Round and Trumbull Lakes to go to and return from their feeding grounds the air is full of thousands of ducks.

Doubtless when the great migration takes place some warm day soon, a good many will delay and decide to stay and nest here, as they do to some extent almost every year. A large majority of the birds which wintered here were Mallards, but among the new arrivals are Pintails, teals and baldheads. The lake is shallow and boggy and many grassy hummocks make good beds for the ducks.—DES MOINES REGISTER, March 26, 1933 (Excerpts)

Reports on the Starling in Iowa.—

CALHOUN COUNTY. Since I have observed Starlings in this vicinity I have searched for published records of its appearance, but I do not find it recorded this far west in Iowa by other observers. I first saw them on March 4, 1933, along Lizzard Creek with a flock of about 80 Robins. On March 4, I observed four of them inspecting the holes in a huge cottonwood tree. I was near on this occasion and studied them with a 12x glass—M. L. JONES, Pomeroy.

JEFFERSON COUNTY. On a March hike over territory within a few miles of Fairfield, a flock of Starlings, estimated to be made up of 100 birds or more, was seen in a draw just east of the waterworks pond. This flock seems to be staying in this vicinity.—FAIRFIELD BIRD CLUB, Fairfield.

JONES COUNTY. On February 23, 1933, I saw a small flock of 15 or 20 Starlings on the State Reformatory farm near Anamosa. About three weeks later I saw a single bird feeding with sparrows among the cattle in a barnyard. On March 24, 1933, I saw five or six of them fly into a farm lot and start feeding. This was near Lisbon as I was driving through.—ALBERT E. COE, Des Moines.

Extinct Birds in Iowa Collections.—It may prove of interest to the ornithologists of the state to know where they may find specimens of the extinct North American birds such as the Passenger Pigeon, Heath Hen, Carolina and Louisiana Paroquets, and those others now nearly exterminated such as the Eskimo Curlew and Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

In the Davenport Public Museum there are three Passenger Pigeons, two of them taken in Scott County; two Paroquets without data, and two Eskimo Curlews. One of the latter was collected in Northern Iowa, by Dr. S. C. Bowman, April 20, 1874. I believe the paroquets were received from the University of Iowa Museum and were originally from the Talbot collection.

There is a mounted specimen of the Eskimo Curlew in the collection of the Museum at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant. No data are available for this specimen.

In the Shaffer collection of birds, found in the Jefferson County Public Library, Fairfield, there are four Passenger Pigeons. They were probably all captured in Jefferson County before 1880. One is a juvenal, a plumage seldom seen in mounted groups.

The State Historical Museum, at Des Moines, has a pair of mounted Passenger Pigeons and a nest with two eggs. The pigeons were killed by Prof. Joseph Steppan from a flock of 18 in northern Michigan, June 14, 1887.

A mounted pair of Passenger Pigeons are in a case in the Science Building at Iowa State College, Ames. These birds, while lacking labels, were apparently part of the collection of Michigan birds which were purchased by the college, probably in the seventies. There is also a cracked specimen of the egg of the Passenger Pigeon.

In the collection of birds of the Sioux City Academy of Science, housed in the Sioux City Public Library, there is one Eskimo Curlew without data.

Oscar P. Allert has, in his collection at Giard, an Eskimo Curlew taken March 22, 1903, at Oakfield, Wisconsin.

There is a fully plumaged male Passenger Pigeon in the collection of O. M. Greenwood at Manchester. This specimen was collected by Dr. Wm. H. B. Greenwood, in Delaware County, on May 10, 1881.

In the Museum of the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls there is a mounted pair of Passenger Pigeons. These birds were purchased about 1900, but the locality from where they were taken is not known.

There is a group of four Passenger Pigeons at the Bert Heald Bailey Museum, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, two Louisiana Paroquets which were formerly in the Talbot collection, and an Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

In the Museum of Wartburg College at Waverly, there is a mounted paroquet, but nothing could be learned of where it was secured.

The collection of the Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, contains five mounted Passenger Pigeons; one mounted Ivory-billed Woodpecker and two others as skins, all from Florida; two mounted Heath Hens and a skin, from Martha's Vineyard, taken by J. E. Thayer in 1897; one Eskimo Curlew taken at Burlington, April 5, 1893, by Paul Bartsch; two Carolina Paroquets from Florida; and nine Louisiana Paroquets taken during 1882 in Indian Territory, by D. H. Talbot.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa.

Red-winged Blackbirds in an Oat-field.—It was the 24th of July. The afternoon sun blazed fiercely in a cloudless sky. There was a light breeze that came at infrequent intervals, but it did little to relieve the intense heat. I was in a small, eight-acre oat-field, where the farmer had begun the work of harvesting his crop. At harvest time there is always urgent need for haste, and despite the warmth of the afternoon, the farmer urged on his four perspiring horses, while the binder rattled along noisily, and the oats went down in wide swaths before the sickle-bar. Suddenly the machinery stopped, and the farmer called to me.

"There's a bird's nest over here," indicating the location as he spoke. "Young birds in it, too," he added. It was late in the season for nesting birds in Iowa, and as I walked to the other side of the field, I wondered what bird might have its nest there.

I had little difficulty in finding the nest, as it was of fair size and was lying on its side in the stubble. In it were four small birds that had by some chance managed to retain hold of their home when the binder caught it. The nest had been a foot or more above the ground in its original position. It was cleverly woven into the oat-stalks so that several of them had supported the structure and held it firmly in place. Although the nest had lain directly in the path of the binder, it escaped the destruction that circumstances indicated should have been its inevitable fate. The nest had been just high enough in the oat-stalks to miss the sickle-bar. When the stalks supporting it were nipped off, the large reel of the binder caught it squarely and with the swift movement that is intended to push the oats over to the canvas, the reel tossed the nest of young birds across the machine and into clear ground behind it. It was the work of a second, but

within this space of time the miracle had happened. Instead of being run up the steep incline of rolling canvas into the "packers" where the bundles of grain are tied, the nest came to rest on the ground almost as soon as it had been seized by the binder. Here was the exceptionally rare case where the nestlings had made their first flight BEFORE leaving the nest!

I studied the nest and the young birds carefully. Events which followed disclosed the fact that they were young Red-winged Blackbirds. This species is one that we usually associate with marshes, and, as a rule, we find them building their nests among the rushes and cattails; this nesting seemed a new departure for the bird.

The little birds were safe for the moment, though evidently they were hungry, to judge from widely opened mouths. The proper thing to do, apparently, was to try to place them in as nearly their former position as possible, in the hope that the parent birds would find them and continue to care for them. Before the oats were cut the stalks that stood above the nest provided considerable shade for its occupants when the old birds were away in quest of food; to place them on the ground under the broiling sun would be nothing short of cruelty. Too, young birds that lie fully exposed upon the ground are not long safe from enemies. I decided to place them in a shock of grain. Selecting one of the newly-made shocks that stood nearer to the original nest-site than the others, I put the nest of little birds into its side, about a foot from the ground, using care to place it on the shady side of the shock and in a position where it would be conspicuous from the air.

I awaited the result with anxious expectation. Would the parent birds find their offspring, or had the aspect of the field been changed to the extent of their not recognizing their familiar abode? The field of standing grain had presented a uniform, unbroken appearance to me, but I knew that many minor objects were of topographic importance to the Red-wings. There was the slight gully at one side of the field; to the Red-wings, no doubt, the nest was a certain distance from this landmark. Perhaps a particularly large weed, or a certain stick or a decaying corn-stalk from last year's crop, pointed the way to the nest. With the grain leveled and all such landmarks probably obliterated, could the birds find their brood?

I had not long to wait. In a short time a parent Red-winged Blackbird appeared. There was brief poising in the air, while the bird surveyed the changed surroundings. Soon it sighted the nest of youngsters, and the food in its bill found the place for which it had been intended. The work of feeding the nestlings then went on without further interruption.

A little later that afternoon I found another young Red-winged Blackbird, a week or more older than the others, that had not fared so well at the hands of the binder. One of its wings had been clipped at the very extremity, taking all of the new feathers at this point, this doubtless the work of the sickle as the oat-binder passed over it. The bird was very active, squealing and fluttering when I attempted to catch it. Upon examination I decided that the wing had every chance of healing, after which it would function perfectly. I placed the bird on the top of a shock. Its parents fluttered about in the air a few yards above my head and called excitedly as I handled their baby. When I last saw this young Red-wing it was still perched on the shock.

The number of young birds which are killed by farm mowers and grain-binders at this season each year is purely a matter of conjecture, but the total is no doubt a very large one. Mowing-machines cause more destruction than grain-binders because their sickle-bars lie flat upon the ground, while in the latter machine this bar stands from

four inches to a foot above the ground, depending on what height of stubble the farmer cares to leave in his field.—FRED J. PIERCE, Winthrop, Iowa.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A Letter from Our New President.—

Dear Fellow Members:

It gives me great pleasure to have been elected President of this group of enthusiastic bird students. All of us will be busy at our "birding" this summer. May it continue through the fall and winter. Some of us may work mostly with the feathered helpers of the garden and around the home. Others will look for new and rare birds.

The article by Mr. DuMont in this issue will be very helpful to you. Some members are led by the article prepared by Dr. Errington to look for nests of game birds. And may others take up this study. Many of the members will travel outside of the state and see birds new to them. All of us should write Mr. Pierce, our Editor, about any unusual finds in order that all of us may share them with you through the pages of 'Iowa Bird Life.'

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union is a good organization! Let us tell others about it. Good things should grow. Then at our next annual meeting there will be more of us, and we shall have more observations to report. Lots of good birds to you!

Sincerely,
GEORGE O. HENDRICKSON

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Ellis E. Wilson, a Waterloo, Iowa, attorney, has written many pioneer stories based on his experiences as a boy living on Iowa's virgin prairies in the sixties and seventies. Most of these stories have had as their background the wild life of Iowa in the early days, and a number of them have described the birds found at that time. 'Iowa Bird Life' has been fortunate in being able to print a few of Mr. Wilson's articles; we are presenting the third one in this issue.

Mr. Wilson was born at Oska-loosa, Iowa, in 1861, one of ten children. In 1864 the family settled on a prairie farm near Waterloo. Here the boy began his natural history education from first hand observation and under the guidance of his parents who were both nature lovers. He attended Iowa State Teachers College and later taught school at Hinton and Merville, Iowa. He graduated from Drake University in 1885, and from the law school of the State University in 1895. During the World War he went



overseas as an American Red Cross worker. He still takes keen delight in watching the birds on the Wilson homestead, which has grown into a 700-acre family estate during the years.

New Iowa Members.—The following people have joined the Union since the publication of our last issue: Joseph N. Beck, Remsen; Miss C. Esther Copp, Cedar Rapids; Miss Winifred Gilbert, Cedar Falls; Mrs. George O. Hendrickson, Ames; Mrs. R. W. Hendrickson, Forest City; Ralph W. Lamson, Fairfield; Miss Ada Patterson, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. Thomas Simpson, Washington; Mrs. Billy Williams, Atlantic.

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The literature of Tennessee ornithology has recently been enriched by the publication of two booklets prepared by Albert F. Ganier. The first is entitled "A Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee" (Tenn. Avifauna No. 1, Jan., 1933, pp. 1-64, price 50c). This is a successor to a preliminary list prepared by Mr. Ganier in 1917. The new list contains 302 species with a key to habitat and abundance for each. One section of the booklet describes briefly the geographic regions of the state, the economic importance of birds with especial reference to the raptorial, the abundance of birds, how to study and attract them, enemies of birds, and related topics. There is an index to species, a useful feature. The other booklet is entitled "Water Birds of Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee" (Tenn. Avifauna, No. 2, Feb., 1933, pp. 1-24, price 35c). Mr. Ganier describes this interesting earthquake-formed lake, and includes an annotated list of 58 species of water birds found there. A map and several halftones furnish illustrations.

The two booklets are well printed and are bound in heavy paper covers. They are a credit to both Mr. Ganier and the Tennessee Ornithological Society which sponsored their publication. We are always glad to call to the attention of our Iowa readers these useful lists published by our nearby states. Our lists have much in common, and comparisons are always of interest. The Tennessee booklets are for sale by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, Box 341, Nashville.

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The Nebraska Ornithologists' Union discontinued its series of mimeographed letters and began the year 1933 with a printed quarterly called 'The Nebraska Bird Review,' two issues of which have already appeared. It is a neatly printed publication, similar in size and scope to our own little magazine, and carries bird notes and news on the ornithology of Nebraska, which of course are also of interest and value to Iowa bird students. The 'Review' is edited by Dr. Myron H. Swenk, whose reputation as an ornithologist guarantees the quality of the publication. Subscriptions are \$1 a year, and should be sent to Dr. Swenk, at 1410 North 37th St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

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The Emergency Conservation Committee of New York City has a Board of Consulting Biologists of about 40 members, among whom are Drs. F. L. R. Roberts and B. Shimek, well known in our Union.

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